

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 MOSCOW 04251 272011Z

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 NEA-09 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02

INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

SAJ-01 NIC-01 /062 W

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R 271539Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8671

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

USIA WASHDC

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USIA FOR IBS, IEE, IPS

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: PFOR UR US

SUBJ: SOVIET PRESS HINTS U.S. INTERESTS LINKED WITH FAISAL MURDER

1. SUMMARY. SOVIET PRESS (MARCH 27) SUGGESTED A LINK BETWEN  
THE ASSASSINATION OF KING FAISAL AND U.S. INTERESTS AND  
TACITLY ENDORSES VIEW THAT FAISAL'DEATH WAS RESULT OF  
A POLITICALLY INSPIRED PLOT. END SUMMARY.

2. BEIRUT-DATELINED TASS ARTICLE (PRAVDA, MARCH 27) AND  
IZVESTIYA SPECIAL REPORT BY CORRESPONDENT KORYAVIN (MARCH  
26) BOTH FOCUS ON RUMORS AND "OPINIONS" THAT FAISAL  
ASSASSIN WAS NOT ACTING ALONE. PRAVDA ARTICLE REPLAYS  
AN NAHAR REPORT SAYING "POLITICAL AND SOCIAL CIRCLES" IN  
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PAGE 02 MOSCOW 04251 272011Z

ARAB WORLD ARE CONVINCED THAT THE KING'S DEATH WAS THE  
RESULT OF A "PLANNED POLIY," NOT JUST THE ACT OF A MENTALLY

DERANGED RELATIVE. KORYAVIN, ONLY SLIGHTLY LESS SUBTLY, CAREFULLY BRACKETS WITH QUOTATION MARKS (A NORMAL SOVIET METHOD OF SUGGESTING DISBELIEF) REPLAY OF OFFICIAL SAUDI STATEMENT CLAIMING FAISAL' ASSASSIN WAS MENTALLY DERANGED RELATIVE ACTING ALONE.

3. SECOND TASS ARTICLE (PRAVDA) FOLLOWS UP PRAVDA'S REPORT OF AN NAHAR CONSPIRACY THEORY BY WEAVING INTRICATE WEB OF INNUENDO SUGGESTING CLEAR LINK BETWEEN U.S. INTERESTS AND FAISAL'S DEATH. TASS --CITING WASHINGTON POST -- RECALLS SAUDI ARABIA'DECISION TO CURTAIL OIL PRODUCTION, ANNOUNCED AT THE ALGIERS OPEC MEETING, AND QUOTES POST THAT SAUDI DECISION WAS "A HEAVY BLOW FOR THE UNITED STATES." TASS THEN ALLEGES THAT U.S. PRESS IS SUGGESTING THAT FAISAL'S MURDER WILL "ACTIVATE THE INTRIGUES" OF AMERICAN OIL MONOPOLIES (SPECIFICALLY ARAMCO) "WITH NEW FORCE." CLINCHING ITS CASE, TASS CONCLUDES WITH LENGTHY CITATION FROM NEW YORK DAILY NEWS AND NEW YORK TIMES ARTICLES, GIST OF WHICH IS THAT U.S. OFFICIALS HOPE PRINCE FAHD, WHO IS CALLED FRIEND OF THE U.S., WILL EXERCISE THE REAL POWER IN THE NEW SAUDI REGIME.

4. ABOVE REPORTS APPEAR TO REPRESENT YET ANOTHER EFFORT BY THE SOVIET PROPAGANDA MACHINE TO STIR UP TROUBLE BETWEEN THE U.S. AND ONE OF ITS FRIENDS AND TO RAISE STILL ANOTHER POTENTIAL OBSTACLE TO U.S. COOPERATION WITH THE ARABS. WE DOUBT THAT USSR OFFICIALS SERIOUSLY CREDIT IDEA THAT U.S. WAS INVOLVED IN FAISAL'S DEATH, BUT THIS WILL NOT DETER THE PROPAGANDISTS FROM SEEKING SOME MILEAGE FROM CHARGESTHAT A SINISTER U.S. HAND PLAYED SOME ROLE IN THE KING DEATH.  
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